Town Hall,
Droitwich.

22nd July, 1941.

Sir,

Medical Officer of Health's Report for year ending the 31st December, 1940.

I very much regret to inform you that a clerical error was made on the first page of the Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1940. A fresh page has now been substituted and I beg to enclose five copies of the amended Medical Officer of Health's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) Arthur W. Molyneux.

Town Clerk,

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

C.R.
MIN OF HEALTH
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TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the public health of the Borough during the year 1939.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1961 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in February, 1940.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area (in acres.)	1735 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of: (a) resident population, mid-1939.	4677
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates.	4721
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books.	1405
Rateable Value	£34,119.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£127.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year.

Live Births.

	Total.	Male	Female.
Legitimate	69	35	34
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939 = 15.0

Still-Births.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 15.0

Deaths.

Total	Male	Female
56	30	26

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population.	11.9
Deaths from Puerperal causes.	None
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age: All infants per 1,000 live births.	57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
" " Measles (all ages).	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
" of Infants under 1 year of age.	4

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

a. Medical. Dr. Keith Roden was part-time Medical Officer of Health until the 31st March this year, when I was appointed to the post.

b. Others. Mr. R. E. Hulse, Cert. R. San. I., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(ii). There have been no developments or changes in the services provided under the following heads:

a. Laboratory facilities.

b. Ambulance facilities. These have been good, and have only been used for the transport of sickness and accident cases. All infectious cases were removed by special ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

c. Nursing in the Home.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

e. Hospitals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. All samples taken for analysis were satisfactory.

(ii) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, passes through the town. No pollution has occurred. During the year the Droitwich Canal and the Droitwich Junction Canal were vested in the Droitwich Corporation under the Droitwich Canals (Abandonment) Act. Since this Act has been passed, there has been noticeable improvement in the condition of the Canals and prophylactic measures are still applied to prevent mosquito larvae from breeding.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

No privies or pail closets have been converted as there are none in the built up area of the town. However, 97 additional W.C.S. have been put in during the course of the year.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The methods in use for the collection and disposal of refuse have been satisfactory.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of this will be found in the attached Tabular Statement.

(iv) Shops.

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(v) Camping Sites. There are no sites in the area used for camping

purposes.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this matter.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one privately owned Swimming Pool in the Borough. As a matter of routine, samples are taken for bacteriological examination to ensure that the condition of the water is satisfactory.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action in connection with this matter was necessary during the year.

4. Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is fair; the water supply good. The scholars were inspected regularly during the year and all cases of infectious disease, together with contacts, were excluded.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	394
and number of inspections made for the purpose.....	451
(b) Number of dwellinghouses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	45
and number of inspections made for the purpose.....	45
(c) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	2
(d) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	55

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	55

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a). Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (or defects remedied).	None
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners.	None
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	None

(b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By the Owner.	1
(b) Local Authority in default of woner.	None

(c.) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	None

(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	0

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i). Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year.	54
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.	62
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein.	357.
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	11
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	17
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such.	100
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	None

(e) The construction of an additional 70 houses to abate overcrowding was commenced early in 1939 and at the end of the year 36 were completed and the remainder nearly completed.
Unfortunately it will not be possible to use these houses for the purpose for which they were intended as the 70 houses have been requisitioned.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year and all samples taken by him were satisfactory.

(b) Meat.

Until the outbreak of War in September, all meat shops, stores and slaughter-houses in the Borough were inspected regularly and found to be satisfactory; since that time, meat inspection has been confined to that in butchers' shops and stores as no slaughtering takes place in the local slaughter-house.

During the year 45 pounds of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(c) Adulteration.

No action was taken during the year.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the County Buildings, Worcester.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious disease continued to remain very low and no deaths occurred during the year.

Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940, which came into operation at the end of October, 1939, measles and whooping cough became notifiable diseases.

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the course of the year (together with those of measles and whooping cough which were notified since October) are shown in the following table.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	7	7	0
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Measles	12	0	0
Whooping Cough	4	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	0	0

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age-groups:-

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	1	-
1 -	1	-	-	1	-
2 -	-	-	1	1	-
3 -	-	-	1	-	-
4 -	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	2	1	7	1	-
10 -	-	-	3	-	-

Overleaf.--

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.
15 -	2	2	-	-	-
20 -	2	2	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year are as follows:

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	-

No action was taken in 1939 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public H ealth Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

My thanks are due to Mr. R. E. Hulse, the Borough Surveyor and his Staff, and to Dr. S. Chalmers Parry, the Deputy County Medical Officer, for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Infectious Diseases, etc.,

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	31
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease	14
Other Houses disinfected	6

Housing.

Houses erected : By Local Authority	36
By Private Enterprise or Subsidy	14
Number of Houses inspected	394
Number (included above) inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated)Regulations,1925	45
Number of dwellinghouses found unfit for habitation	2
Number of dwellinghouses (excluding above) not in all respects fit for habitation	55
Number of dwellinghouses (defective) rendered fit after informal action	55

Housing Act 1936 Sections 9,10,& 16.

a. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs of defects remedied	None
b. Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by:	
(a) The Owner	"
(b) Local Authority in default of Owner	"

Public Health Acts

a. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied	1
b. Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by	
(a) The Owner	1
(b) Local Authority in default of owner	None

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 13.

a Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
b. Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None

Housing Act,1936, Section 12.

a. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
b. Number of Closing Orders determined,the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None

Housing Act, 1936 Part IV - Overcrowding

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	54
Number of families dwelling therein	62
Number of persons dwelling therein	357
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	17
Number of persons concerned in such cases	100
Cases of Overcrowding abated	nil
Dirty Houses dealt with	nil.
Yards paved or repaved	62

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans etc.

Number observed	6
Number dealt with as insanitary	none.

House Drainage etc.,

Number laid or relaid	57
Number trapped,ventilated and repaired	8
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	16
In rural portion of Borough Number of house drains tested	57
Number of insanitary lavatories,sinks & urinals rectified	2
Number of privy middens in use at end of year	3
Number of earth or pail closets in use at end of year	39

Water Closets

Number of privy or pail conversions	Nil.
Number of defective W.C.'s remedied	33
Number of Slop Closets converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flush	Nil.
Number of additional W.C.'s put in	97

Scavenging

Number of houses from which refuse was removed	1363
Number of privies cleansed	Nil.
Number of ashpits cleansed(In rural portion of the Borough)	10
Number of portable receptacles cleansed	1273
Number of ashpits removed and ash bins provided	Nil
How often is house refuse removed?	Weekly

Smoke Nuisances

Number under observation	Nil
Number abated	Nil

Offensive Trades

Number under observation	Nil
Number improperly conducted	Nil.
Number newly established with consent of Council	Nil

Water Supply

Number of wells sunk	Nil
Number of wells cleansed and repaired	2
Number of wells closed as polluted	2
Number of houses supplied from waterworks during year	52
Number of samples of water sent for analysis	4
Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	Nil
Is there a deficiency in any part of the District	No

Slaughter Houses

Public Slaughter Houses	Nil
Number registered (private)	Nil.
Number Licensed (private)	5
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found.	Nil.
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported.	6
Number of inspections	153

Milk

Number of registered dairy farms in the area	8
Total number of Retailers in district	19
Number of Licenses under Milk (Special Regulations) Order: (Pasteurised. Retailer)	2
Approximate number of milking cows in the district	95

Canal Boats

There are no Canal Boats registered.

Lodging Houses

Number on Register	Nil.
Number of inspections	Nil.
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	Nil.

Houses let in Lodgings

There are no houses in the Borough registered under the above.

Food

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption	Nil
Amount voluntarily surrender as unfit	451lbs Beef
Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption	45 " "

Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis: Oxen: Nil
Pigs: Nil.

Food and Drugs 'Act

Samples taken for analysis	Nil
Number of samples certified genuine	Nil
Number of samples certified adulterated	Nil

Other Matters.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act. Cases dealt with	Nil
Verminous Persons. Cases dealt with	Nil
Verminous Houses Cases dealt with	Nil
Stagnant Water Cases dealt with	Nil
Nuisances arising from domestic animals	Nil.

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year with regard to insanitary conditions or unsound food.

Outbreaks of Infectious Disease

No serious outbreak of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness occurred during the year.

Sanitary Improvements

No large sanitary improvements were made during the year

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

There are no chief sanitary requirements.

Fever

No cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid occurred during the year

General Remarks

In my remarks for 1938 I stated that conditions in the Borough from a sanitary and health point of view were very satisfactory and that the only matter that required abatement was overcrowding.

The construction of an additional 70 houses to abate overcrowding was commenced early in 1939 and at the end of the year 36 were completed and the remainder nearly completed.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to use these houses for the purpose for which they were intended as the 70 houses have been requisitioned by the War Office.

The Town Council's first playing field was constructed during the year in Ombersley Road. The scheme includes facilities for two cricket pitches, two football grounds and one hockey ground. There is a substantial pavilion, large car park and spectator stand.

(Signed) R. E. HULSE.

Sanitary Inspector

7th July, 1941.